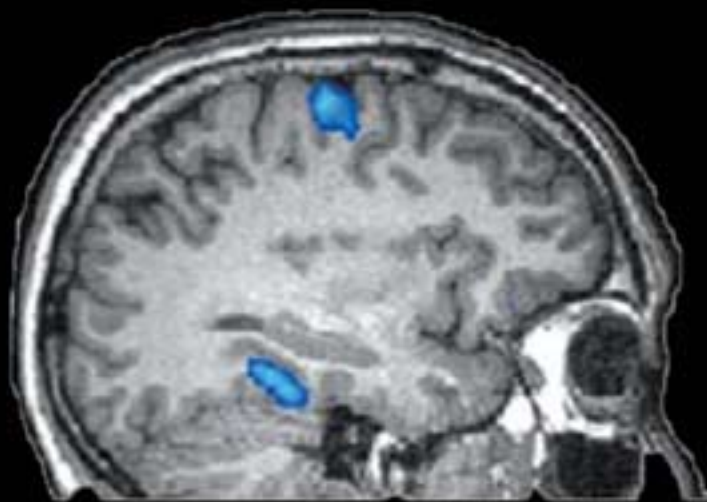
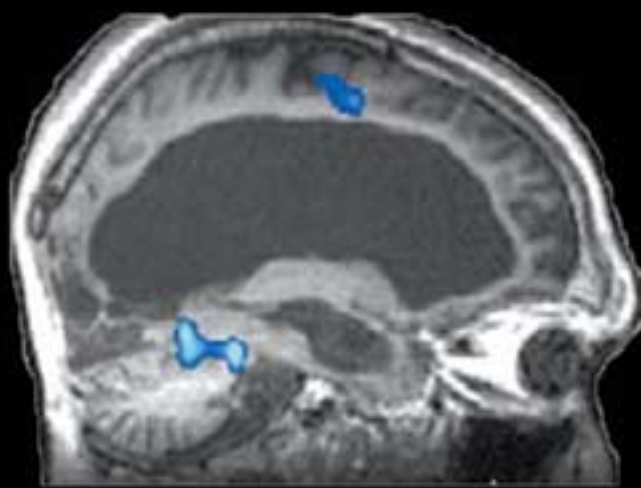
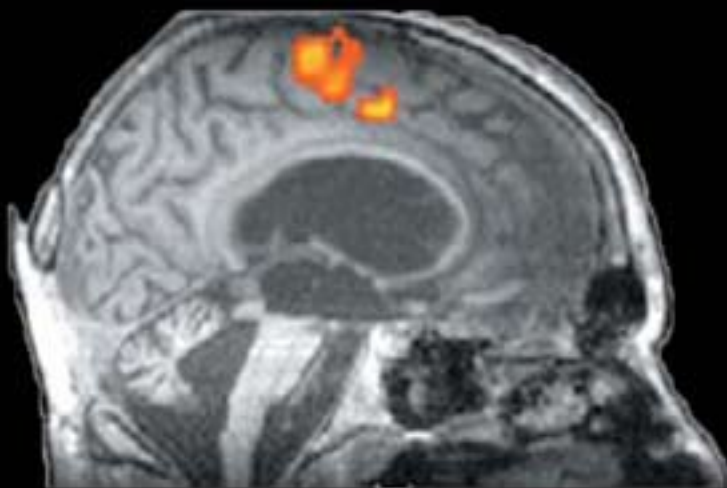


**YES****NO****CONTROL****PATIENT**

The patient in a vegetative state and the healthy control were asked to respond yes or no to six specific questions, such as 'Do you have any brothers?'. They answered 'yes' by thinking about a 'motor' task such as imagining playing tennis. 'No' was given by thinking about a spatial task, such as imagining walking around their home and to visualise all that they would 'see' if they were there. The motor task thoughts involve the supplementary motor area of the brain (coloured orange). The spatial task thoughts involve the parahippocampal gyrus (coloured blue). There was no difference between the pattern shown by the patient and healthy controls. This suggests they both could hear and communicate the answer to the questions even though the patient could not speak or communicate in other ways.